

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A process for purifying lipoic acid, which comprises adding to a solution of lipoic acid at least 0.1 times the amount of an adsorbent, based on the mass of lipoic acid to be purified, and subsequently removing the adsorbent.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The ~~[[P]]~~process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lipoic acid to be purified has been obtained by oxidation of dihydrolipoic acid.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~[[P]]~~process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein at least 0.2 to 0.5 times the amount of an adsorbent, based on the mass of lipoic acid to be purified, is used.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~[[P]]~~process as claimed in claim 1 ~~[[to 3]]~~, wherein the silica gel is used as adsorbent.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The ~~[[P]]~~process as claimed in claim 1 ~~[[to 4]]~~, wherein the lipoic acid to be purified is dissolved in an organic solvent or in a mixture of at least two organic solvents.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~[[P]]~~process as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 1 to 5~~, wherein the lipoic acid is dissolved in heptane or toluene or a mixture of these solvents.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The ~~[[P]]~~process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein racemic or nonracemic lipoic acid is employed as lipoic acid.

Claims 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (New): A drug, cosmetic, or food product comprising purified lipoic acid obtained by the process as claimed in claim 1.